

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17 (Cancelled)

18.(New) An apparatus for driving with a power driver a screwstrip comprising threaded fasteners such as screws or the like, which are joined together in a strip comprising:

- a housing;
- an elongate drive shaft for operative connection to a power driver for rotation thereby and defining a longitudinal axis;
- a slide body coupled to the housing for displacement parallel to the axis of the drive shaft between an extended position and a retracted position;
- the slide body having
 - (a) a guide channel for said screwstrip extending through said slide body;
 - (b) a guideway to locate successive of the screws advanced via the guide channel to be axially in alignment with said drive shaft for engagement in driving of the screws from the guideway by the drive shaft; and
 - (c) a screw feed activation mechanism coupled between the slide body and the housing whereby displacement of the slide body relative the housing between the extended position and the retracted position advances successive screws;
- the housing comprising a member having a side wall about a central elongate interior cavity extending longitudinally of the member parallel the axis and open at an open forward end;
- the side wall having a first elongate slot therein open to the central cavity and extending longitudinally of the interior cavity parallel the axis,
- a first shoe member slidably received in the first slot for guided longitudinal sliding parallel the axis guided within the first slot;
- the first shoe member carried by the slide body to guide the slide body in the member for sliding parallel the axis.

19.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein:
the first slot having elongate guide surfaces on each side of the slot extending parallel the axis;
the shoe member having side surfaces for bearing on the guide surfaces on each side of the slot.

20.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the guide channel extends transverse to the axis and away from the axis radially farther than the side wall, the slot extends forwardly to a forward blind end, the open forward end of the member is axially forward of the forward blind end of the slots.

21.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein the first shoe member guides the slide body in the member for sliding parallel the axis without relative rotation of the slide body and the member about the axis.

22.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the side wall having a second elongate slot therein open to the central cavity and extending longitudinally of the interior cavity parallel the axis,

the first and second slots located on the side wall at circumferentially spaced locations generally opposite each other relative the axis;

a second shoe member slidably received in a second slot for guided longitudinal sliding parallel the axis guided within the second slot;

the second shoe member carried by the slide body to guide the slide body in the member for sliding parallel the axis.

23.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein the first slot extends through the side wall.

24.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the first and second slots extend through the side wall.

25.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein:

each slot having elongate guide surfaces on each side of the slot extending parallel the axis;

each shoe member having side surfaces for bearing on the guide surfaces on each side of the slot.

26.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the guide channel extends transverse to the axis and away from the axis radially farther than the side wall, the slots extend forwardly to a forward blind end, the open forward end of the member is axially forward of the forward blind end of the slots.

27.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the shoe members guide the slide body in the member for sliding parallel the axis without relative rotation of the slide body and the member about the axis.

28.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein the guideway extends coaxially through the slide body coaxially about the axis;

the guide channel extending transverse to the axis and opening radially into the guideway on a first side of the guideway to feed successive screws held in the screwstrip into the guideway;

a screwstrip exitway opening outwardly from the guideway on a second side of the guideway opposite the first side via which exitway a strip from which screws have been removed by driving with the driver shaft may exit the guideway on advance of the screwstrip.

29.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 28 including

an exit slotway in the side wall extending rearwardly from the open forward end of the member axially in line with the exitway to permit the strip from which screws have been removed to pass unhindered from the exitway through the side wall via the exit slotway when the slide body is retracted relative the housing toward the retracted position.

30.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29 including a guide channel slotway in the side wall extending rearwardly from the open forward end of the member axially in line with the guide channel to permit the guide channel to extend through the side wall via the guide channel slotway when the slide body is retracted relative the housing toward the retracted position.

31.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 30 wherein when the slide body is in the extended position relative the housing, the guide channel and screwstrip exitway are forward of the open forward end of the side wall of the member;

when the slide body is in the retracted position relative the housing, the guide channel and screwstrip exitway are rearward of the open forward end of the side wall of the member;

on retraction of the slide body relative the housing from the extended position, the strap from which screws have been driven which extends radially out of the screwstrip exitway moves rearwardly in the exit slotway past the open forward end of the side wall of the member and the guide channel moves rearwardly in the guide channel slotway past the open forward end of the side wall of the member.

32.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein the screw feed activation mechanism includes a camming surface on the housing and a cam follower on the slide body;

the cam follower engaging the camming surface whereby in moving between the retracted position and the extended position the cam follower translates relative axial movement of the slide body and housing into movement transverse to the axis.

33.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 32 wherein the screw feed activation mechanism includes a shuttle carried on the slide body movable relative the slide body transverse to the axis;

the shuttle carrying an advance pawl for engagement with the screwstrip to advance the screwstrip with movement of the shuttle toward the axis;

the cam follower coupled to the shuttle to move the shuttle transverse to the axis with relative movement of the housing and slide body between the retracted position and the extended position.

34.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 33 wherein the shuttle carried on the slide body for sliding relative the slide body in a linear path transverse to the axis.

35.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 34 wherein the shuttle is biased to move toward the axis.

36.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 35 wherein the advance pawl pivotably mounted to the shuttle for pivoting about a pawl axis parallel the axis defined by the drive shaft.

37.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36 wherein the advance pawl is biased to pivot about the pawl axis into engagement with the screwstrip.

38.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 including
a spring biasing the slide body forwardly relative to the housing parallel the axis to the extended position.

39.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein the housing substantially comprises a unitary element injection molded from a plastic material.

40.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein the first shoe member is removably secured to the slide body through the first slot.

41.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein the shoe members are removably secured to the slide body through their respective slots.

42.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40 wherein the first shoe member having surfaces engaging an outer surface of the side wall of the housing adjacent the first slot to retain the slide body on the housing against removal.

43.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 41 wherein the shoe members having surfaces engaging outer surfaces of the side wall of the housing adjacent their respective slots.

44.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein a first forward stop member is provided on the side wall of the housing proximate the first slot,

a second forward stop member is provided on the first shoe member for engagement with the first forward stop member to limit sliding of the slide body forwardly relative the housing to the extended position.

45.(New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 43 wherein the slide body is removable from the interior cavity of the tubular member by sliding forwardly out of the open forward end of the cavity when the shoe members are removed.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Customer Number 25763

Date: Oct. 20, 2003

By: David N. Fronek
David N. Fronek (Reg. No. 25,678)
Intellectual Property Department
Suite 1500, 50 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1498
(612) 340-2629